

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING BUILDING SAFETY MONTH

HON. SHARICE DAVIDS

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 24, 2019

Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas. Madam Speaker, today, during Building Safety Month, I am pleased to recognize the importance of safety in the built environment and the dedication of the members of the International Code Council (ICC) for their roles in protecting our communities.

With natural disasters only expected to increase in frequency and severity, building codes include important safeguards to protect the public from tornadoes, floods, hurricanes, snowstorms, wildland fires, and earthquakes. In January 2019, the congressionally-established National Institute of Building Sciences (NIBS) released a study finding that adopting modern model building codes save \$11 for every \$1 invested through earthquake, flood, and wind mitigation benefits, with a \$4 to \$1 wildfire mitigation benefit. These benefits represent avoided casualties, property damage, business interruptions, and insurance costs, and are enjoyed by all building stakeholders—from developers, titleholders, and lenders, to tenants and communities.

Vulnerable and underserved populations are most effected by increases in utility costs. And they often have the most to lose in the event of a disaster or health emergency. Building codes establish minimum requirements that ensure safe, resilient, and energy efficient schools, childcare and healthcare facilities, housing, and places of employment, regardless of the income or background of the facility's ownership and occupants. These protections are required by law for public safety, and enforced by code officials to ensure everyone enjoys the same protections and plays by the same rules.

Year round, building safety and fire prevention officials, architects, engineers, builders, tradespeople, laborers, and others in the construction industry work to ensure the safe construction of buildings through the use of model building codes. The dedicated members of the International Code Council, a national standards developing organization, come together with local, state and federal officials to develop voluntary consensus codes that protect Americans in the buildings where we worship, live, work, learn, and play. The International Codes, the most widely adopted building safety and fire prevention codes in the nation, are used by most U.S. cities and counties and in all 50 states, including the State of Kansas. I commend the city of Lenexa in my district for adopting the 2018 International Codes and the other cities in my district that are undertaking efforts to update their building codes.

Building Safety Month is sponsored by the International Code Council to remind the public about the critical role of our communities' code officials in assuring us safe, efficient, and

livable buildings. "No Code. No Confidence," the theme for Building Safety Month 2019, encourages all Americans to raise awareness of the importance of safe and resilient construction, fire prevention, disaster mitigation, and new technologies in the construction industry.

I am honored to recognize International Code Council Board President William R. Bryant, ICC's Chief Executive Officer Dominic Sims, the International Code Council leadership, and ICC's Members and staff as they celebrate Building Safety Month.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF JAMES ERVIN

HON. TERRI A. SEWELL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 24, 2019

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Mr. James Ervin, a Foot Soldier in the American Voting Rights Movement, Vietnam Veteran, and Son of Selma, Alabama.

An advocate for social justice in every sense of the word, Mr. Ervin was only sixteen years old when he dared to participate in Selma's voting rights movement. He marched in many demonstrations and was arrested with schoolmates in the name of equality and justice. Mr. Ervin also participated in the infamous march across the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma on Bloody Sunday, coverage of which helped contribute to the passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. Upon graduation from high school, Mr. Ervin continued his record of public service and sacrifice by enlisting in the United States Army and serving our country honorably in the Vietnam War.

Mr. James "Ebo" Ervin was born in Selma, Alabama, on October 27, 1948, and he departed this life on Monday, May 13, 2019, in Mobile, Alabama. He was preceded in death by his father Willie Ervin; his mother, Willie Lee Ervin (née: Goodwin); and his brother Albert "Joe" Ervin.

Mr. Ervin was in high school during the civil rights movement in the Selma-Montgomery area. He actively participated in the events of the time with the hopes of changing the area and the nation. He has been recognized as an original Foot Soldier of the movement. Mr. Ervin went on to graduate from R.B. Hudson High School in May 1967. He faithfully attended class reunions and maintained lifelong friendships with his classmates. Shortly after graduation, Mr. Ervin joined the U.S. Army and served our nation during the Vietnam War.

After returning home to Selma, he attended and graduated from Wallace Community College where he received an Associate Degree in Industrial Electricity in October 1974. After graduation, he relocated to Mobile, Alabama, where he began working in various shipyards around the Gulf Coast area. He was employed with Bender Shipbuilding for 10 years then

went on to work for Ingalls Shipbuilding, where he worked for 27 years until his retirement.

Mr. Ervin accepted Christ as his Savior at an early age. His personal relationship with the Lord was very important to him and he was always encouraging others to work on their own personal relationship with God. He joined Mt. Zion Primitive Baptist Church in Selma and considered it to be his home church, but he was also an active member of New Faith Baptist Church in Mobile, Alabama, where he was in regular attendance and served the church as needed.

Mr. Ervin was the youngest of Willie and Willie Lee's seven children. He is survived by his siblings: Willie (Gloria) Ervin, Jr., Maggie Harris, Charles Ervin, Mary Lee, and Solomon (Joan) Ervin.

After the passing of his mother Willie Lee Ervin, James was blessed to be welcomed into the family of Lula Marie Edwards. She embraced him as her son and he loved her as his mother.

Along with Lula, Mr. Ervin is mourned by his siblings: Brenda (Steven) Brazzelle, Anthony Edwards, Amy (Roosevelt) Marzette, Stephanie (Ricky) Meniffee, Lewis (Lisa) Edwards, Bonita (Calvin) Andrews, and Derrick Edwards, and half siblings, Solomon "TC" Ervin, Gloria Walker, and Raymond Walker.

Mr. Ervin shared unique and special relationships with each of his 16 siblings and his relationships with his children and grandchildren were no different. He leaves seven children to cherish his memories: Grace (Tommy) Johnson, Glenda Reaves, Barry Lowe, Elecia Scott, Ericka Priestner, James Levan (La'Shell) Peasant, and Christopher Charles Peasant; twelve grandchildren: Tomequa (Norris, Jr.) Lewis, Tierra Robinson, Christopher Reaves, Brandon Bennett, Jailynn Peasant, Zyla Peasant, Janeá Scott, Tobiasz Johnson, Tommasz Johnson, Jaichelle Peasant, Elisha Brayden Scott, and Jaceyon Alexander Long; two great grandchildren, Madisyn Lewis and Tamari Jacob Smith; a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends, including one devoted sister Maggie Harris, a devoted niece, Franchy Harris Coleman; and special friends, Joseph Smitherman, Calvin Thomas, and Robert Hatcher.

On behalf of Alabama's 7th Congressional District and a grateful nation, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating Mr. Ervin's contributions to bettering the Selma and Mobile communities and our nation.

RECOGNIZING CU BOULDER'S GREEN SPORTS INITIATIVE

HON. JOE NEGUSE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 24, 2019

Mr. NEGUSE. Madam Speaker, today I want to recognize my alma mater, the University of Colorado-Boulder. Last week CU became the first university in the nation to sign

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

on to the United Nations Sports for Climate Action Framework.

The University joins other prominent sporting organizations such as the Olympic Committee, FIFA and the NBA to establish a clear path for the world's sporting communities to fight climate change.

The University of Colorado's Athletic Program has committed to reducing overall climate impact, educating others on climate action, promoting sustainable consumption, advocating for climate action and promoting environmental responsibility.

This is leadership.

This is not the first time that my state and my district have picked up the slack for where the federal government is falling short on climate action. Our constituents are acting on this issue, and it's about time we follow their lead. I am incredibly proud of my University and of my community for their leadership on climate change and commend their efforts to be the change they want to see in the world.

RECOGNIZING THE LEGACY OF BOB BERG

HON. RASHIDA TLAI
OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 24, 2019

Ms. TLAI. Madam Speaker, it is with great honor that we recognize the legacy of Bob Berg, a communications professional and long-time public servant in the city of Detroit.

Born April 1, 1943, in Watseka, Illinois, Mr. Berg grew up on farms in central Illinois and went on to earn his bachelor's degree in political science from Wesleyan University where he wrote for the student paper. After graduating, Mr. Berg held several positions, including leading the state capitol bureau for United Press International covering Governor William G. Milliken. He was later hired in the Public Affairs office of Milliken.

In 1982, Mr. Berg went on to the role for which he is most well-known, serving as press secretary for Detroit Mayor Coleman A. Young. Mr. Berg's professionalism and work ethic earned him his reputation for being an exceptional press secretary. He served on Mayor Young's staff for eleven years, touching on many issues that faced Detroiters.

Beyond his time serving under Mayor Young, Mr. Berg began his own communications firm. He was honored by New Detroit in 2014 with a Leadership in Race Relations award and by the Detroit Urban League in 2018 as a Distinguished Warrior. Mr. Berg served on several organizations, including on the board of the Coleman A. Young Foundation, the Detroit Police Foundation, and the Detroit Urban League.

It is with great sadness that we recognize the great loss of Bob Berg and give tribute to his surviving family.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF CHARLES B. SEIDEL

HON. JOHN KATKO
OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 24, 2019

Mr. KATKO. Madam Speaker, I rise today in memory of Charles B. Seidel, a devoted public

servant and loving husband and father. On May 7, 2019, Mr. Seidel passed away at the age of 62 while on a business trip. Mr. Seidel had an outstanding 26-year career with the Central Intelligence Agency, overseeing agency operations throughout several conflicts, before entering private life in 2006.

Charles Seidel was born on June 29, 1956 in Alexandria, Virginia, to his parents John and Annette Seidel. His father was a senior CIA officer who inspired his son to follow in his footsteps. Shortly after graduating from Drew University, Mr. Seidel joined his father at the CIA in 1980.

Mr. Seidel spent most of his CIA tenure in the Middle East, holding various leadership roles in Iraq, Kuwait, and North African nations. As Chief of Station for the CIA's Middle East Station, he provided intelligence support in the efforts to end Saddam Hussein's 1990 invasion of Kuwait and once again in 2003 to overthrow the Hussein-led regime in Iraq. Mr. Seidel possessed a deep respect for the history and customs of the Middle East, which helped him collaborate with the citizens and governments in the region.

In 2006, Mr. Seidel retired from the CIA and worked for private security consultants such as Decapolis LLC, Blackfish Group, Command Global Services, Strategic Risk Management, and Lazarus Brothers. He was awarded two Intelligence Stars for valor during his service with the agency and was well-respected by his peers.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the life of Charles B. Seidel. He was a committed public servant who always strived to keep America safe from malicious foreign actors. Additionally, the level of respect he showed for other cultures was second to none and serves as an honorable standard for all Americans.

RECOGNIZING THE UNVEILING OF THE NEWLY RENAMED "MUHAMMAD ALI WAY"

HON. RUBEN GALLEG

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 24, 2019

Mr. GALLEG. Madam Speaker, it is my privilege to honor the contributions of one of our country's greatest boxers, activists, and philanthropists as my district celebrates the unveiling of the newly renamed street "Muhammad Ali Way" this June 3rd—the three-year anniversary of Muhammad Ali's passing in Scottsdale in 2016—thanks to the initiative of Dignity Health.

I want to recognize something more than the endurance with which Ali inspired us each time he entered the ring. The athleticism, determination, and honor he brought to the sport of boxing are commendable. But the endurance he sustained outside the ring after he was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease in 1984 has been a true inspiration to the world—and to the people of Phoenix in particular, where he and his neurologist Abraham Lieberman helped establish the Muhammad Ali Parkinson Center (MAPC) at Barrow Neurological Institute in 1997. The center has grown over the past two decades into an internationally renowned facility for Parkinson's disease and movement disorder related medical

care. MAPC continues to carry out Muhammad and Lonnie Ali's mission each day to provide high-quality and compassionate treatment, education, and support to every individual battling Parkinson's disease, to their caregivers, and to their families.

The team of neurologists, nurses, physical therapists, occupational therapists, and speech-language pathologists at MAPC sees more than 1,200 patients a year. It is through the Ali family's continued support and devotion to driving the world towards a cure for Parkinson's disease that the center is able to maintain robust outreach programs to patients and families, and serve Arizonans with palliative care, remote-telemedicine appointments, and other critical services.

It is fitting, then, that the road leading to the center also be named in recognition of Ali's contributions: his demonstration of American tenacity and spirit in sport, in his battle with Parkinson's, in his support of the advancement of medical research, in his service to the Phoenix community, and in his service to our country as a whole. I look forward to traveling down the newly renamed "Muhammad Ali Way" each time I have the opportunity to visit the Muhammad Ali Parkinson Center in Phoenix for years to come.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF STAFF SGT. JOHN SIMONETTI

HON. THOMAS R. SUOZZI

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 24, 2019

Mr. SUOZZI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Staff Sgt. John Simonetti, who sacrificed his life for his country 75 years ago.

Simonetti was born in Jackson Heights, New York on May 24th, 1918. He later enlisted in the United States Army as a Staff Sergeant in the 2nd Infantry Division. On D-Day plus 1, Staff Sgt. Simonetti's division crossed the Channel with the mission to capture an enemy strong point, a city called Saint-Lô, Normandy. On June 16, 1944, Simonetti was killed in action during an ambush by enemy troops outside the town of St. Germain d'Elle. Under heavy fire, his squad was forced to abandon his body and was unable to locate it when they returned to the area days later.

In the absence of a body to mourn, Staff Sgt. Simonetti's family carried with them the memory of a kind, funny, patriotic young man and passed along the story of his sacrifice to younger generations. On the 50th anniversary of D-Day, Simonetti's nephew, Fred Salerno, travelled to Normandy to learn more about his uncle and St. Germain d'Elle. There, Salerno met with locals from the area and left with them his contact information should any remains be discovered.

15 years later, the skeletal remains of an American soldier—with dog tags still around his neck—were unearthed near the center of town and officials, remembering the family who had visited years earlier, contacted Salerno. Staff Sgt. Simonetti's remains were flown to the United States and laid to rest in Arlington National Cemetery.

I believe the story of Staff Sgt. Simonetti's sacrifice, his family's longstanding dedication to his memory, and the people of St. Germain